

It may be thought that I am prejudiced in this respect by my connection with, and my long residence in, that Province. Perhaps I am, and so would anyone be who knows it as well as I do, and it is remarkable that those who pay only a passing visit speak just as highly of it.

IMPRESSIONS OF A VISITING JOURNALIST.

The correspondent of the "Morning Post," who accompanied the royal party of the Prince and Princess of Wales on its memorable journey, writes thus of British Columbia:—

"The wild vegetation had the luxuriance, not of the tropics, but of the tender north. It is the combination of rich wild country and old-fashioned English homes that makes the surroundings so wholly delightful. They tell me, and I can quite believe it, that he who has stayed here a while is so conquered by the charm of the country that if he leaves it he is compelled to return to it. Then how magnificent are the landscapes, on which the possessors of these pleasantest of homes look out. Embracing broad waters, sinuous straits, timbered islands and capes and, behind all, the mighty ranges with their summits of eternal snow, the most conspicuous being Mount Baker, which, though a hundred miles away, is generally clearly visible. When I saw this fine mountain it looked like a huge ball of delicate white, suspended in mid air, for only its snowy dome gleaming in the sunlight was distinguishable, its lower slopes being invisible in the distance and blending with the blue of the sky."

Of the mountain scenery of the Mainland Mr. Whymper says that "it is as extensive as fifty Switzerlands," and I may add that it is, too, practically as easy of access. That wonderful railway company, the Canadian Pacific, has established numerous excellent hotels in the very heart of the mountains. At several of them there are expert Swiss guides who conduct the tourist over what were considered, a short time ago, to be inaccessible points. Quite recently another mountain valley has been opened up, of surpassing grandeur. At its head are the "Takakkaw Falls," where an enormous body of water leaps a sheer 2,000 feet from a glacier-bound tarn.

The reason that travellers are so favourably impressed by the country is probably largely due to its magnificent scenery and its delightful and healthful climate. These are good reasons, too, and of the utmost importance to the intending settler; but beyond these there are much greater ones why people should make that Province their home. To sum them up in two words, they are its location and its resources.

If you look at a map of the world you will see that British Columbia juts out into the North Pacific. Carry your eyes across the Pacific to the west and southward and you see Japan, China, India, Australia, New Zealand and all the islands of that ocean, in addition to the western shores of the great American Continent, which stretches for some thousands of miles to the south. Most of these countries are populous and a large amount of business is already done with them, but the course of trade is rapidly changing. Forty years ago there was hardly a steamer on the Pacific; you could almost count them all on your fingers. I have, in fact, a walking stick made from the wood taken from the old "Beaver," the first steamer that navigated the Pacific. She was wrecked some years since, near Vancouver. To-day there are several lines of fine steamers crossing that ocean, trading with all the countries still further west and south and connecting with lines of railway that traverse the American Continent to the Atlantic. Telegraphic communication has long been in existence from Europe to the